

SOME THINGS THAT ARE THE MATTER WITH CHICAGO—CIVIC SPIRIT AND CHRISTIANITY

By N. D. Cochran, Editor of The Day Book.

We hear much talk about the difference in cities. I believe that the real difference between cities is the difference between the ruling classes.

I mean that the people of all cities—the 95 per cent—are very much alike; and you'll have one kind of a city where the people rule themselves and control their own government, and quite another kind where the powerful minority rules.

There is much civic spirit in Chicago, but too little of it finds expression in government. We hear a lot of it in speeches, sermons and tracts, of course, but we don't find much of it in the administration of government.

Chicago's civic spirit is too much like her Christianity—a whole lot of it on Sunday, and mighty little of it in business the rest of the week.

Lots of business men go to church. Church-going is one of J. Pierp. Morgan's most popular indoor sports. You can see some of the biggest and richest business men in Chicago marching gaily to church on Sunday morning, or rolling along in beautiful limousines, all dolled up in their Sunday-go-to-meetin' glad rags.

But from Monday morning to Saturday night they wear their business clothes and their business habits. They hang the Golden Rule and the ten commandments up in the closet with their Sunday clothes on Sunday night.

And the men, women and children who work for them all week keep on pouring their souls and bodies into one end of the hopper to come out as cold cash at the other end.

And there are uplifters, too. Lots of uplift in Chicago. Oodles of reform. But what does it all amount to?

I never saw anybody who wanted to be uplifted by somebody else. I have met many who dearly love to reform others, but none who wanted to be reformed by strangers. One of our national pastimes and recreations is reforming others, and kicking when others want to reform us.

We also have many very virtuous and good men and women who busy themselves chasing fallen women from one part of town to another, and urging big policemen to arrest them and lock them up. Hence we have frequent vice crusades. But they work too much at one end of that game and too little at the other.

Our learned students of social conditions tell us that low wages, long hours and unsanitary working conditions help drive men and women to vice and crime. But how many of us spend one hundredth part of the time trying to cure the cause, as we do